

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03573 171905Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 /021 W
-----180739Z 087809 /10

R 171505Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5218
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS MOSCOW 3573

BEWT/TPD (ROBB)

VIENNA FOR VONTILLIUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, UR
SUBJECT: HERBICIDES/PESTICIDES TSS

REF: MOSCOW 00111

1. HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SOVIET MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE THAT CHENKIN
,
CHIEF OF MINISTRY'S MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR CHEMICALS, AFTER
CAREFULLY EXPLAINING OUR PROPOSALS FOR SUJECT TSS HAS CONCLUDED THAT
HIS
ADMINISTRATION WILL ONLY TAKE A "PASSIVE INTEREST" IN PROPOSED EVENT.
WHILE CHENKIN AND A FEW MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WILLING TO ATTEND SEMINA
R
SESSIONS, PARTICIPATION BY USSR'S PRINCIPAL END-USER OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS WOULD BE LIMITED.

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2. MINAG'S DECISION SHARPLY CONTRASTS WITH REACTION OBTAINED FROM
CHEMICAL SPECIALISTS AT STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(SCST) REPORTED REFTEL WHEN WE DISCUSSED PLANS FOR SEMINAR IN AGRICUL
-
TURAL CHEMICALS EARLIER THIS YEAR. SCST AT THAT TIME TOLD US THAT
IT HAD RECEIVED POSITIVE PRELIMINARY RESPONSES FROM MINAG AND

MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY REGARDING USCO'S PROPOSALS AND THOUGHT THAT SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURE CHEMICALS WOULD BE EXCELLENT IDEA. WE WERE THEN ADVISED BY SCST TO ASK MINISTRIES FOR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. MINAG'S VERY LUKEWARM REPLY HAS COME IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST AND MINISTRY, IN FACT, IS NOT WILLING TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS REGARDING SEMINAR THEMES.

3. ON OTHER HAND, USCO HAS RECEIVED VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE WITH MANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MIN CHEM INDUSTRY (REFTEL). CHEMICAL MINISTRY, HOWEVER, A PRODUCER NOT USER OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND WHILE ITS SPECIALISTS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SEMINAR IN FAIRLY LARGE NUMBERS, THIS MINISTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER OUR PARTICIPANTS NO MORE THAN POSSIBLE LICENSING AGREEMENT. IT HAS BEEN OUR IMPRESSION THAT MOST U.S. FIRMS ARE BASICALLY NOT INTERESTED IN SELLING TECHNOLOGY.

4. AT THIS POINT USCO IN QUANDRY, PARTICULARLY SINCE FAILING TO GENERATE LOCAL INTEREST IN AN S/ME FEATURING AGCHEM PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT LAST FALL, WE RECOMMEND THAT SOFIA AND BUDAPEST AGREE TO SWITCH SEMINAR THEMES TO AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCST'S RECOMMENDATIONS. GIVEN THIS LESS THAN OPTIMAL SITUATION AT PRESENT BELIEVE WE ARE NOW FACED WITH FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVES:

A. DROP MOSCOW FROM ITINERARY OF HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE TSS AND SUBSTITUTE OTHER COUNTRY IF FEASIBLE -- PERHAPS POLAND, CZECHOSLAVAKIA
A
OR GDR.

B. KEEP TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE BUT INFORM US FIRMS THAT WHILE
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SOME KEY MINAG OFFICIALS LIKELY TO ATTEND EVENT, DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE CONTINGENT WILL BE FROM MINISTRY OF CHEMISTRY WHICH PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY OF PRODUCTION AND POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF LICENSES. IF WE DO PROCEED ON BASIS OF ORIGINAL SCHEDULE IT IS CRITICAL THAT MOSCOW PORTION OF EVENT NOT BE OVERSOLD. PERHAPS PARTICIPANTS COULD LIMIT SPEECHES TO AREAS OF APPLICATION SPECIFIED IN REFTEL SUCH AS (C) RATIONALIZATION SCHEMES FOR APPLICATION AND POSSIBLY (A) NEW PESTICIDES AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT..

5. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE AN EARLY TPD RESPONSE.
TOON

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